

**Note to readers with disabilities:** *EHP* strives to ensure that all journal content is accessible to all readers. However, some figures and Supplemental Material published in *EHP* articles may not conform to [508 standards](#) due to the complexity of the information being presented. If you need assistance accessing journal content, please contact [ehponline@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:ehponline@niehs.nih.gov). Our staff will work with you to assess and meet your accessibility needs within 3 working days.

## **Supplemental Material**

# **Lessons Learned on Health Adaptation to Climate Variability and Change: Experiences Across Low- and Middle-Income Countries**

Kristie L. Ebi and Mariam Otmani del Barrio

## **Table of Contents**

### **Summary of Projects**

UNDP/WHO GEF-funded project “Piloting climate change adaptation to protect human health”

German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety project: “Protecting health from climate change: a seven-country initiative”

Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund projects

## Summary of projects

### **UNDP/WHO GEF-funded project “Piloting climate change adaptation to protect human health”**

**Status:** Completed spring 2015.

**Description:** This is the first full-sized health adaptation project funded by the Special Climate Change Fund administered by GEF. The project was designed to build capacity and provide lessons, globally and nationally, in the actual design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of specific health adaptation policies and measures. The overall objective was to increase the adaptive capacity of national health system institutions, including field practitioners, to prepare for, respond to and recover from the health risks of climate variability and change. The specific outcomes were:

- Outcome 1: Establish early warning and response systems with information on the likely incidence of climate-sensitive health outcomes.
- Outcome 2: Improve the capacity of health sector institutions to respond to climate-sensitive health risks based on early warning information.
- Outcome 3: Pilot disease prevention measures in areas of heightened health risk due to climate change.
- Outcome 4: Promote innovation in adaptation to climate variability and change through facilitating cooperation among participating countries.

Each country adapted these to address their local circumstances.

**Countries included:** Barbados, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Jordan, Kenya and Uzbekistan.

**German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety project: “Protecting health from climate change: a seven-country initiative”**

**Status:** Completed in 2013.

**Description:** The project was supported financially by the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. The overall aim was to protect health from climate change through strengthening health systems by building capacity in assessing vulnerability, impacts and adaptive capacity in each country. In turn, this would form the basis for developing a national health adaptation strategy or action plan; carrying out awareness-raising activities; and facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experiences. Country-specific pilot activities aimed to address current climate change vulnerability. These included strengthening preparedness and response for extreme weather events; increasing surveillance and response for climate-sensitive infectious diseases; developing water safety plans; reducing the risk for respiratory diseases; fostering innovation in energy efficiency and use of renewable energy for health services; and air quality monitoring. A major strength of the project was an all-society approach to awareness-raising, capacity-building and intersectoral policy development.

All countries carried out a common set of activities:

- developing a national health adaptation strategy or action plan;
- assessing health vulnerability, impact and adaptive capacity;
- building capacity and national outreach, including educational activities;
- conducting research; and
- exchanging knowledge and good practices between countries.

**Countries included:** Albania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uzbekistan.

### **Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund projects**

**Status:** health adaptation projects completed.

**Description:** The Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund was an initiative funded by the Government of Spain and implemented by United Nations agencies to support countries in their progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other development goals by funding innovative programs that have an impact on the population and potential for duplication. The Fund operated through United Nations teams in each country and used a joint program mode of intervention divided into eight thematic windows corresponding to the eight MDGs. At least 130 joint programs operated in more than 50 countries.

The Environment and Climate Change thematic window aimed to contribute to a reduction in poverty and vulnerability in eligible countries by supporting interventions that improve environmental management and service provision at the national and local levels, as well as increasing access to new funding mechanisms and expanding the ability to adapt to climate change. This window included 17 joint programs to contribute to three types of result: (a) mainstream the environment, natural resource management and actions against climate change in all public policy; (b) improve national capacities to plan and implement concrete actions in favor of the environment; and (c) assess and improve national capacities to adapt to climate change.

**Three countries included health components:** China, Jordan and the Philippines.